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From: Weissbard, Ron
Sent: Mon 4/3/2017 8:50:42 PM
Subject: East River boundary conditions

HDR has informed the City of EPA's request for outputs from HDR's regional model for grid cells in the Lower East River near the boundaries of NCG's model (just north of the northern tip of Roosevelt Island near Horns Hook and at the Battery), including temperature, salinity, and elevation. HDR has applied the regional model for the City for the calendar years 2012-2015. In May 2016, the City provided EPA and NCG with HDR regional model salinity outputs for 2012-2015 near the boundaries of NCG's model. The City can provide the additional outputs being requested by EPA for 2012-2015. The regional model results can be produced within about a week of receiving confirmation from EPA that hourly outputs satisfy the request.

As presented to EPA and NCG on October 21, 2016, the City has separately developed a hydrodynamic model of Newtown Creek which includes the Lower East River, the Upper East River, and the Harlem River, as part of the LTCP program for the Creek as part of the City's CWA requirements under the regulation of NYSDEC. The City's model also relies on the HDR regional model for some of the boundary forcing, however the locations of the boundaries of the City's Newtown Creek model are located further away from the mouth of Newtown Creek and are more technically defensible (and ultimately more useful) than the boundaries of the NCG model. The City's Newtown Creek hydrodynamic model was calibrated for 2012-2015, validated for January to September of 2016, and has been the subject of ongoing peer review. At EPA's direction, the City's Newtown Creek hydrodynamic model could be used for RI/FS purposes (the City's Infoworks model is already being used). The City is also developing groundwater, sediment transport and chemical fate and transport models, and based on the path that the NCG modeling is going, using these City models would result in a more robust answer with more transparency (as an example, NCG has not provided backup calculations for their groundwater estimates despite repeated requests over several months).

We look forward to further discussions with EPA pertaining to hydrodynamic and sediment transport modeling in Newtown Creek.

Thanks

Ron Weissbard, P.E./Acting Director of Superfund

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